

**THE SEASON ALMOST HERE.**  
FAVORABLE BASEBALL PROSPECTS.

THE LOCAL CLUB'S YOUNG PLAYERS IN THE SOUTH  
DOING GOOD WORK.

Almost as soon as the energies of the recent storm are cleared away, the local baseball grounds will be thrown open, and what promises to be an unusually brilliant baseball season will begin. Everything is in readiness for the battles on the green diamond field except the weather, and it is hoped and expected that that uncertain quantity will also be ready within the next two weeks. The weather is a potent factor in baseball, and without the pleasant and seasonable article little can be done.

A visit to the Polo Grounds and Washington Park, Brooklyn, yesterday would have shown the hardy traveler anything but an inviting spectacle, provided he be an enthusiastic follower of the lively game. During the last few months the grounds have been given over to the noisy tobogganers and a general lack of interest yesterday seemed to point to a continuance of the same apathy. The season rather than the birth of a baseball year. The large number of men who usually congregate there were gone. The storm had left its blarney marks everywhere, and it will take at least a week to clear these marks, unless the weather gets unusually warm. It will take another week to get the grounds in anything like good condition for either practice or preliminary games.

The grand stand at the Polo Grounds looked even more ancient and worn-out than usual. The storm had twisted the old timbers and scattered them around in grotesque heaps. The damage can be repaired in a few days, but there would be great joy in the breast of the average fan to see the grand stand up again. The pines were raised to the ground and a new and more substantial stand put up in its place. The latter course would be the most sensible, but it is hardly probable that it will be done. A new grand stand would mean the outlay of a good part of last year's profits, and that is something the directors of the club turn down with great unanimity.

Better accommodations at the popular baseball grounds just north of Central Park would, of course, be highly appreciated by the thousands who go there during the summer, but an improvement in the playing of the inappropriately named "Giants" would be even more preferable to the general public. The New-York Baseball Club is a fine and solid institution now, for about five years. During these five years the club has relieved the general public of enough money to club buy the release of every good player in the country. As a reward for this generous largesse the "Giants" have been a decided failure ever since their birth. The club finished second in the League race one year, and that little honor so unmerited the players that they have not won three straight seasons since. The "Giants" may make up this year's gap, but the honorable position in the race. If they do not do so soon, the suffering public will give up in its might and chase both the players and management of Manhattan Island.

The club has undoubtedly been strengthened and ought to do better work this year. Whether it will do it or not is a riddle that even the blarney masters cannot unravel. The older players have been subjected to a terrible attack of self-administration for some time. Unless these senior crummins are removed, one or two of the players will have to run for Governor or President before long. Manhattan Island is evidently too small for their gigantic ideas. Ewing's community called "Buck" and Ward commonly called "Johndie," have an alarming attack of this harrowing disease. It is surprising that in several cases where this disease is most prevalent the subjects wear hats of about the 6-5-6 measure. A little success and a few public plaudits have a strange effect upon some baseball players.

The natives, or rather, a few of the more modest men of Long Branch—the little summer hamlet on the New-Jersey coast, with short accommodations and long prices—are preparing a gigantic athletic feast for their prospective warm weather visitors. A large plot of ground within ten minutes ride of the principal hotels has been secured and preparations will be made for the enjoyment of all out-door sports. The company which is to govern this athletic meet will be called the "Long Branch Base-ball and Athletic Association." The stock will be issued and it is capitalized at \$25,000. The stock will be issued and placed in circulation in a few weeks.

The company will purchase the old Bullion farm and will begin to lay out a half-mile track as soon as the weather permits. Two baseball diamonds will be laid out and tennis courts and croquet grounds will also be provided. There will also be a half-mile track for the spelling of gentlemen's horses. It will bear no resemblance nor relationship to the two circus tracks of similar dimensions located in the same state.

There will also be a half-mile bicycle track and a tennis court, probably 100 feet wide. Tennis spots will also be reserved for ladies and pigeon-shooting contests. An amateur and semi-professional baseball nine will be organized after taking a few wins. It needs only one and a half and another year's session will be in full swing.

Yours truly, Wm. W. B. W., Brooklyn, N. Y.

"17 People Could Know This."

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MR. RIKER: My little boy has been troubled for a long time with rheumatism, weakness and loss of appetite in fact was badly swollen. I took that I would be lost if my son did not get well. I have tried many remedies. His appetite was fully restored in full force. He is now in full strength and is doing well. At present we are in a million dollar business. We did not give up your medicine. Your son is a good boy.

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More Than the Doctors Could Do.

10 AM. SUNDAY. I have been a sufferer for over six months with very severe pains along the spine, and sometimes with entire cessation of motion, which was more than several physicians could do, and then I saw your eminent physician, Dr. E. G. Adams, of New York, and he gave me a prescription for pain and ease of the body. He is perfectly yours,

JOHN H. H. BIRKETT, 200 Madison Avenue, New York.



SEE THAT THE ABOVE TRADEMARK IS ON ALL PACKAGES. REFUSE ANY OTHER.

## Riker's Compound Sarsaparilla

Purifies the Blood and Invigorates the System. It contains the Active Properties of Sarsaparilla, Bandaline, Yellow Dock, Burdock, Chamomile, Gentian, Rhubarb, Mandrake, Iron, &c., &c., which are so combined as to act with the most desirable effect in ERADICATING from the system all such disorders as arise from IMPURE BLOOD and an INACTIVE LIVER.

ERUPTIONS OF THE SKIN, ECZEMA, SCROFULA, DYSEPSIA, HEAD-ACHE, CATARRH, NERVOUS DEBILITY, BILOUSNESS,

And that "Tired Feeling so Common to all at Times."

REGULATES THE BOWELS TO PERFECTION. IT CONTAINS THE ACTIVE PRINCIPLES OF POTASSIUM AND ANTI-CHEMICAL INGREDIENTS, AND AS IT NEEDS ONLY BE TAKEN MORNING AND NIGHT IT CAN ALWAYS BE TAKEN WITH GREAT REGULARITY AND WITHOUT TROUBLE.

BOTTLES CONTAINING 17 1/2 OZ. (NEARLY DOUBLE ANY OTHER), 75c.

WE GUARANTEE this Sarsaparilla to be MUCH BETTER and more satisfactory than any BLOOD PURIFIER in existence.

And we FURTHER guarantee to BE AND DO ALL that YOU may EXPECT, or we will refund the price.

"A Living Testimonial."

BROOKLYN, Jan. 15, 1888.

Messrs. RIKER & SON:—I am writing you in the efficacy of your compound Sarsaparilla as a liver Medicine. This is the second year I have been treated for years with liver complaint, but these tablets of your Sarsaparilla have relieved me of all trouble. After having made a MILLION DOLLARS I did not give up your medicine. Your son is a good boy.

Respectfully yours, Wm. W. B. W., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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